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CLITHEROE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

R E P O R T of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the year ended 31st December, 1944.

T.G Richards,
M.B Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.



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CLITHEROE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for the
year ended 31st DECEMBER, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my third Annual Report for
the year ended 31st December, 1944.

The District is largely agricultural, there being no
area in which there is a big industrial occupation. Of the main
centres of population, there is no example of the entire
dependance of any centre upon a single industry. There has been
a general concentration of output in all types of work, as was to
be expected during the War, and agriculture has, of course, borne
its share.

I present hereunder some of the principle statistics of
the year.

DEATHS.

Total number of deaths was 74 (33 male, 41 female) and
these may be classified as follows:-

Cause of death	No. of deaths	Per 1000 1943	Per 1000 1944
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2 M - F	.224	.224
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1 M 3 F	.000	.446
Cancer of breast	- M 1 F	.112	.112
Cancer, other sites	4 M 5 F	.892	1.10
Intracranial vascular lesions	5 M 8 F	1.46	1.35
Heart disease	11 M 10 F	2.125	2.36
Other diseases of circulatory system	1 M 1 F	.224	.224
Bronchitis	1 M 1 F	.45	.224
Pneumonia	- M 2 F	.335	.224
Other respiratory diseases	1 M - F	.000	.112
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1 M - F	.000	.112
Other digestive diseases	- M 1 F	.335	.112
Nephritis	1 M 2 F	.224	.335
Maternal causes, other than puerperal sepsis	1	.000	.112

Cause of death	No. of deaths	Per 1000 1943	Per 1000. 1944
Premature births	2 M - F	.112	.224
Road Traffic accidents	1 M - F	.224	.112
Other violent causes	1 M - F	.112	.112
All other causes	1 M 6 F	.56	.78
	74		7.240

There were deaths in 1943 under headings not appearing in 1944. The rate per 1000 in 1943 was 8.94.

BIRTHS.

There were 56 births in the district in 1944, 22 females and 34 males.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of infectious diseases was as under, classified under quarterly headings. It will be seen that again measles is the most commonly notified condition, and that there has been a moderate outbreak of dysentery (Sonne, chiefly) in the district. This has also been the case in neighbouring Districts.

	QUARTER		ENDING	
	31st March	30th June	30th Sept.	31st Dec.
Scarlet Fever	3	3	6	4
Pneumonia	-	1	-	1
Measles	24	2	3	34
Diphtheria	-	1	1	-
Dysentery	-	-	3	28
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

Total number of cases notified in the year was 9, compared with 10 in 1944 and 7 in 1943.

Six of these cases were pulmonary, and three non-pulmonary.

At 31st December, 1944 the register stands thus:-

Pulmonary		Total	Non Pulmonary		Total	Total pulmonary & Non-pulmonary		Total M. & F.
M	F		M	F		M	F	
12	8	20	9	4	13	21	12	33

It will be noticed again, that, of the 9 notifications received 6 are again from the township of Whalley. This was a feature of the notifications in 1943. The disproportion is, statistically, not as great as it seems, and is not to be explained, in my view, by housing conditions.

DIPHTHERIA.

Again this constitutes one of the brightest spots in the whole health administration of the District. There have been immunisations at all the clinics in villages, and it is probably safe to say that, with the exception of a very small number of cases in which parental permission is consistently refused, we have immunised 90% of the children in the 1 - 5 year group. The practice now is to hold immunisation clinics twice a year, and, in fact, we find that subjects over 5 years are rather rare, and that about 60% of the cases are between 1 and 2 years of age.

The total number of immunisations completed in 1944 was 121. There can be no doubt that these results are at least 1.5 times as good as the country as a whole.

MILK.

Under the Special Designations Order (1936) the number of persons licensed to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk is 2 and accredited milk 23.

There is one licence to pasteurise milk. Regular samples of this last supply have been taken, at approximately monthly intervals. In no case during the year were any of these in the least unsatisfactory as judged by the methylene blue and phosphate tests.

There have been regular inspections of dairies and cowsheds, and on the whole these have been found satisfactory. Certain of the routine measures of upkeep have been neglected, on account of the pressing work on the land itself, and labour shortage.

A system of examination, with records is required, and there is no doubt, in my view, that the standard of milk production can be improved. This might be done when a survey of water supplies is undertaken, since water supply (both quantity and quality) is one of the problems of the milk producer. More frequent laboratory analysis of milk samples is required.

MEAT DISTRIBUTION.

Inspections of meat have been made in shops and vans. Whilst meat has not always been of first quality, it has not been found unfit for human consumption.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

With the exception of Stonyhurst College, who hold a licence to slaughter, all this work is carried out under Government control at the slaughter house in Clitheroe.

HOUSING.

Regular inspections of house property have been made during the year, and the common defects are dampness, insufficient drainage, and in many cases, fundamental error in planning (as judged by modern standards) when the houses were built.

Repairs to structural deterioration have been suggested (and the suggestions have been acted upon) in cases where this was necessary.

In general much that might, and should be done, is not done because of:

- (1) defect is so fundamental that the property would almost need rebuilding (c.f. clause 9 of the Housing Act, 1936).

- (2) difficulty with labour and material.
- (3) inertia of property owners.
- (4) understandable unwillingness of Local Authority to push matters to extremes especially during war.

Much of the above was made unavoidable by war. But the war has brought with it the necessity of making much questionable property habitable for much longer. There is therefore a post-war need to implement new building with an improvement in the old.

WATER SUPPLIES.

These are as in previous reports. There have not been any extensions during the year.

There is a need for a re-examination of the whole water supply in the district, especially the small supplies serving outlying farms, or small groups of houses. The supplies in the Chaigley area (to mention one) are very doubtful, and I know from personal investigation the supply to the Chaigley Manor and the Walk Fold area to be unsatisfactory.

SEWERAGE.

These are all conducted as in my last report, and are, subject to my previous remarks regarding the necessity for sewage schemes in certain areas, satisfactory.

I have the honour to be, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) T. G. RICHARDS.

Medical Officer of Health.

19th October, 1945.